

September 27, 2007

Barbara Rice
Rivers, Trails & Conservation Assistance
National Park Service
1111 Jackson Street, Suite 700
Oakland, CA 94607

Dear Ms. Rice,

The Delta Protection Commission (DPC) would like to express support for a partnership with the National Park Service's River, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program (RTCA) on the Delta Trail project. The DPC recognizes the value of the experience and expertise offered by the RTCA, and how that experience and expertise will be of considerable benefit to Delta Trail feasibility study and planning efforts.

DPC's mission is to protect, maintain, and where possible, enhance and restore the overall quality of the Delta environment consistent with the Delta Protection Act and the Land Use and Resource Management Plan for the Primary Zone of the Delta, including agriculture, wildlife habitat and recreational activities, to ensure orderly, balanced conservation and development of Delta land resources and improved flood protection.

The DPC values the opportunity to form partnerships with both governmental and non-governmental agencies to enhance the effectiveness of carrying out its mission. The importance of collaborating with relevant local, state, federal, and private sector entities has been formally recognized in the *DPC 2006-2011 Strategic Plan*.

The DPC's experience in forming partnerships and achieving common goals through collaborative efforts is exhibited by its membership. The DPC is itself a collaboration of local, regional and state entities. Its representation spans the five Delta counties (Sacramento, Yolo, Solano, Contra Costa, and San Joaquin).

Recent examples of effective collaboration include: working with all five counties to address the increasing environmental and enforcement problems of abandoned vessels in the Delta; facilitating a Delta-wide team of emergency response managers to coordinate emergency planning and response; and facilitating of discussions for developing a Delta-wide agricultural conservation easement program.

In keeping with this spirit of promoting Delta-wide collaboration, the DPC would like to reiterate its support of forming a partnership with the RTCA, and looks forward to working with RTCA Staff on Delta Trail planning.

Sincerely,

Mike McGowan
Chair

Attachment: DPC Membership Roster